

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important news affecting labor, according to the views of the service and its editorial staff, and other information that will benefit the reader.

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WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1925.

SUPREME COURT DRIVES WOMEN INTO TRADE UNIONS

The United States supreme court has smashed the women's minimum wage law system.

In setting aside the Arizona law, the court reaffirms a similar decision on the District of Columbia minimum wage law for women, when it held, in 1922, that the law of contract operates regardless of sex.

In the Arizona case it was the first time the supreme court made a clear decision on a state law of that character.

Previous decisions included the right of industrial commissions to set working conditions, as in Stettin versus O'Hara (Oregon) and Stevenson versus St. Clair (Minnesota).

In the District of Columbia and the

Arizona cases, the supreme court draws a sharp line between the right of women to contract for wages, and the state's right to enforce working conditions that protect the health and morals of women.

In answer to the claim that wages affect morals, the supreme court replied (in the District of Columbia case):

"The relation between earnings and morals is not capable of standardization. It can not be shown that well-paid women are more virtuous than those who are poorly paid. Morality rests upon other considerations than wages; and there is, certainly, no such prevalent connection between the two as to justify a 35 per cent advance in the latter for the former."

It would be well for trade unionists and students of social questions to keep in mind this distinction the court makes

between the state's right, under its police power, to protect health and morals of wage workers by guarding their working conditions, and its lack of power to deny women the right to contract to work for any wages she elects.

It is safe to estimate that hereafter no state minimum wage law, as such, can successfully pass the supreme court. State supreme courts will undoubtedly follow the higher court. The Wisconsin state supreme court has already taken this position.

These decisions affirm organized labor's belief that trade unionism is the only hope for women wage earners.

Labor has repeatedly emphasized the uncertainties and dangers involved in attempting to correct evils arising out of industrial relations through the political

power of the state, rather than by the collective power of wage earners.

The supreme court decision is a notification to the working women of this country that they must depend upon themselves.

Working women must organize if they would raise their living standards.

They can no longer listen to the lure of those who assure them that their hope to raise wages is in state legislatures, whose agents will tell them how many street car rides they may enjoy, what food they may eat, what clothes they may wear.

Working women must remember that if they depend on the state, the United States supreme court decision in the Arizona case will serve as a rude awakener.

MINIMUM WAGE LAW VOID; SWEEPING RULE BY COURT

Washington, Oct. 24.—The United States supreme court has set aside the Arizona minimum wage law for women.

The court rendered no formal opinion, but merely reaffirmed its annulment of the District of Columbia minimum wage law for women in 1922. That was a 5-4-3 decision, the minority consisting of Chief Justice Taft, and Associate Justices Sanford and Holmes.

Justice Brandeis took no part in the case because of his connection with minimum wage legislation before he was appointed to the supreme bench.

The District of Columbia law, which was passed by congress, was set aside, the majority opinion held, because it violated the right of contract. The majority said that every worker has "the ethical right" to a living in accordance with the power of his selling goods.

The court declared that while the Arizona law was unconstitutional, it was not to be recognized in certain

cases, and laws regulating hours and working conditions were upheld. "We can not accept the doctrine that women of mature years who are capable of supporting themselves are to be subjected to restrictions upon their liberty of contract which could not lawfully be imposed in the case of men under similar circumstances."

In dissenting from this opinion, Chief Justice Taft, practically charged his colleagues with basing opinions on their economic views.

"I do not," he said, "the function of this court to hold congressional acts invalid simply because they are passed to carry out economic views which the court believes to be unwise or unsound."

It was the majority decision in this case that the court reaffirmed, in the Arizona case, which came up from Nogales, Arizona, where a merchant was arrested for contracting with four women to work for him at less than the legal fee of \$16 a week.

PICTURE STORY OF WORKERS VIEWED IN NATION'S CAPITAL

Washington, Oct. 24.—"Labor's Reward," the motion picture feature of labor's organizing and educational campaign, received its first public showing in the nation's capital.

President Green was the speaker. It was his first public address in this city since becoming chief executive of the A. F. of L. He outlined the campaign and explained the workers' purchasing power in the interest of union-made goods, rather than the sweatshop and convict-made brand.

The meeting was under the auspices of the Central Labor union, and was preliminary to the opening of the regular campaign on November 1, when five picture units will be shown in various sections of the country.

Reports to the A. F. of L. indicate unusual interest in the campaign, which will be directed by the A. F. of L. union label trade department. International and national unions, state federations and central bodies are giving every aid to the project, and it is intended to carry the story of labor's advance to every circle as wide as possible outside the trade union movement.

INSURANCE WRITERS FAVOR 8-HOUR DAY

Washington, Oct. 24.—Life insurance companies are investigating the habit of working long hours in regard to the hours they work, sleep and spend in amusement. This is considered part of the applicants' physical examination.

Dr. J. Rozier Biggs, medical director of one of the nationally-known life insurance companies, made this statement in an address here.

The speaker indicated that for business reasons life and accident insurance companies are throwing their economic power into the eight-hour fight.

Dr. Biggs said that the companies are also concerned over the small amount of sleep taken by the American people. He urged a return to the eight hours' work, eight hours' sleep and eight hours' leisure.

"A thorough and permanent program of sleep is a necessary part of certain fluctuating middle classes. The congress that convenes in December will have to consider the problem. In the election next year candidates running independently."

"In the last election it showed 300 were Republicans, 200 were Democrats and 23 were independents or representatives of minor parties."

He emphasized the importance of the presidential election, rather than the congressional election, as the labor's non-partisan policy and the people must be made to understand that there is no excuse for further misrepresentation.

"This policy is perfectly and often intentionally misstated," the convention declared.

Workers to parties, who use it. All industries neither the two major parties nor their third parties are candidates of the two major parties and occasionally the two major parties are candidates running independently."

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WHAT AMERICAN TRADE UNIONISM WANTS

President International Seamen's Union of America (Before Atlantic City Convention, A. F. of L.)

There seems to be a strange lack of understanding of the difference that exist in Europe and America. In Europe the fundamental idea is that the government is the power of the people and that only those things which government permits, hence the government is the power of the people. In America the fundamental idea is that the government is the power of the people and that only those things which government permits, hence the government is the power of the people.

The people of the United States are free, not because they have a constitution. They are free because they are free. They are free because they are free. They are free because they are free.

What is the situation here? I want to call your attention to the fact that the government is the power of the people and that only those things which government permits, hence the government is the power of the people.

There is a fundamental distinction between the king and the arrogant emperor. The king is the power of the people and the emperor is the power of the people.

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Operators' Chief Has Bad Eyesight; Public Gouged By New Coal Sizes

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 24.—Samuel D. Warriner, leading coal operator, either has bad eyesight or refuses to see the present time not one pound of coal is being mined in the anthracite region, but Mr. Warriner ignores the shut-down, and the United Mine Workers are not representative of the miners. He expresses these views before the state chamber of commerce.

OPERATORS' GUNMAN MUST GO TO JAIL

Washington, Oct. 24.—The United States supreme court has set aside the Arizona minimum wage law for women.

Labor Defends Non-Partisan Plan; Facts Can No Longer Be Hidden

Atlantic City, Oct. 24.—In explaining labor's non-partisan political policy, the A. F. of L. convention declared that "there is no excuse for further misrepresentation."

"This policy is perfectly and often intentionally misstated," the convention declared.

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GENERAL SHERWOOD CHAMPION OF LABOR, PASSES AWAY IN OHIO

Toledo, Ohio, Oct. 24.—General R. Sherwood, 90-year-old veteran of every struggle for human liberty during the last century, died here after a several months' illness.

General Sherwood was a brilliant record in the Civil war, entering as a private and rising to the rank of brigadier general. He was elected to congress in 1872 and served one term.

In 1900 he was again elected and served continuously until 1920, when he died at the age of 88, he was again elected to congress in 1872 and served one term.

During all these years he held honorary membership in the International Brotherhood of Labor, and was closely identified with every progressive movement to the Congress. His voice was always raised in the defense of labor, and he was a constant reminder to the Congress of the rights of labor.

CONVICT LABOR GOODS MENACE FREE INDUSTRY

New York, Oct. 24.—No law-respecting manufacturer can meet the competition of convict labor goods.

Senator Charles O'Hare, of Illinois, has introduced a bill to prohibit the sale of goods made by convict labor.

The bill is intended to protect the free laborer from the competition of convict labor goods.

SENATE WILL UNCOVER TEAPOT DOME OIL MESS

Washington, Oct. 24.—The navy oil leases will be revived in the senate, at the forthcoming session of congress, and those who expected to hush the matter will be made to know that the senate will uncover the teapot dome oil mess.

A. F. OF L. OFFICERS ARE AL RE-ELECTED

Atlantic City, Oct. 24.—President Green and the entire executive committee were unanimously elected at one of the closing sessions of the United Mine Workers, to nominate President Green as president of the United Mine Workers, to nominate President Green as president of the United Mine Workers, to nominate President Green as president of the United Mine Workers.

SERFDOM IS UPHOLD BY SOUTHERN COURT

Atlanta, Oct. 24.—James J. Jones, veteran editor of the Journal of Labor, smashes into the state supreme court the case of a man who was convicted of being a serf.

FIXED WAGE STANDARD URGED BY UNIO FEO

Philadelphia, Oct. 24.—The anti-trust court has ruled that the price of goods is fixed by the market.

MOVIE MEN RAISE WAGES

Washington, Oct. 24.—The movie men have raised their wages.

REACTION IS BEHIND DAWES TO SCREDITU. S. SENATE

Atlantic City, Oct. 24.—Vice President Dawes' attempt to give free speech in the senate to the A. F. of L. convention to be "in the interest of the reactionary element that is seeking to control legislation."

WANT TAXES KEPT SECRET

New York, Oct. 24.—The nation's dominant party in the senate, the Republicans, want the taxes kept secret.

SYNDICALISM LAW UPHOLD

Washington, Oct. 24.—The United States supreme court has upheld the California syndicalism law.

COMMUNISM IN MEXICO ONLY BROUGHT TROUBLE

Self-styled "liberal-minded" persons object to organized labor's attitude toward Soviet Russia and its boring-from-within policy.

MILLIONS OF PROFIT IN HUGE BREAD TRUST

New York, Oct. 24.—Here is a Wall Street Journal headline on the gigantic bread trust.

CARELESS EMPLOYERS BLAMED FOR ACCIDENTS

Seattle, Oct. 24.—Industrial accident is a result of the carelessness of employers.

FEW STOCKHOLDERS VOTE RAIL MERGER

Washington, Oct. 24.—Hearings on the Nickel Plate railroad merger, before the Senate committee on commerce, reveal new finance methods that are rarely discussed in the public.

W. L. LIVINGSTONE IS DEAD

San Francisco, Oct. 24.—Wm. Livingstone, laborer and ship owner, died in this city.